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Stark County Law Library Association

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BEGINNERS

www.tenminutementor.com

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works! TRY IT!!**

"Over the years, steadily mounting time pressures and growth within the legal profession have conspired to deprive attorneys of an invaluable asset -- access to the wisdom of mentors." ¹ To meet this need the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) and TexasBar CLE joined forces to create the Ten Minute Mentor website. This new site <<http://www.tenminutementor.com>> performs a very valuable service by offering young lawyers access to the wisdom and knowledge of prominent Texas lawyers.

And the bloggers are going wild! From Jim Calloway:

I can't speak highly enough of this idea. It is inspired. It is so difficult for young lawyers to establish a relationship with a mentor these days. Everyone is so busy. Getting ten good minutes of advice from a great lawyer is extremely valuable and having access to it 7/24 is, as the saying goes, priceless.

Since this is an Oklahoma-based weblog, you can imagine how tough it is for me to brag on Texas. Thanks for making this tremendous resource available to young lawyers everywhere, not just in your state. Not only am I having a second "site of the week" this week for this great accomplishment, but I'll be showing The Ten Minute Mentor off at ABA TECHSHOW 2005 during "60 Sites in 60 Minutes." ²

From Robert Ambrogio:

Imagine if, at the click of a mouse, young lawyers could receive mentoring from some of the legal profession's most highly regarded practitioners. Now they can, thanks to Ten Minute Mentor, a free series of Web lectures launched March 1 by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, which describes them as "Concise. Practical. Free." ³

From Carolyn Elephant:

The only possible improvement that I could suggest to this amazing service is to consider a podcast format. That way, lawyers could pop those presentations onto an MP3 player and listen to them over and over again en route to work or at the gym or while waiting in court. But even as a computer-based service, this project is amazing. Thank you to the Texas Young Lawyers division for thinking as big as...the state of Texas! ⁴

The Ten Minute Mentor site includes such veteran trial lawyers as Harry M. Reasoner of Vinson & Elkins telling how to structure a legal argument, "King of Torts" Joseph D. Jamail discusses the lawyer's role in society, and Haynes Boone co-founder Michael M. Boone tells how to build a law firm that will last. ⁵ But because it is a platform to provide not just CLE, but life skills, many of the segments feature "young lawyers talking about



BEGINNER (Continued)

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issues that young lawyers are challenged with daily. It is an opportunity for young attorneys to pass their knowledge on to new attorneys and teach them how to avoid mistakes. It's good to learn from you[r] own mistakes, but it's easier to learn from someone else's." ⁶

The 10 minute, streaming video format was conceived by David McAfee, the President of TYLA, as a response to a changing profession.

There are more sole practitioners and more lawyers in firms with five or fewer attorneys. There is increased billable-hour pressure and less time. There are more big cases and fewer small ones for young

lawyers to cut their teeth on. The old way of mentoring almost doesn't fit anymore because too many of the realities have changed. Ten Minute Mentor is a way to do that mentoring, but in a new construct. It's more accessible and less time-consuming. ⁷

The videos are searchable by keyword and available alphabetically by speaker and topic on the site's home page. Also on the home page you will find a list of new releases and the highest-rated presentations. Keep in mind however, that while many of the topics including ethics, building a firm and personal development, etc. apply to all, many of the videos are Texas-specific.

INTERMEDIATE

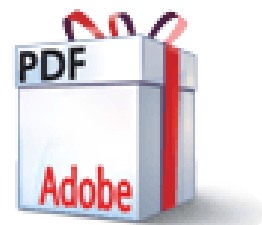
An Acrobat Trick

Keeping with last month's topic of the usefulness of Adobe Acrobat, this month I will show you how to "staple your cases together in a virtual way" if you are, like us, still using one of the older versions of Acrobat and don't have access to the wonderful "binder" tool.

First download all the cases which are relevant to the topic you are researching. You can store them in a "temporary folder" for now because we aren't going to keep it anyway.

After you have everything you need, open the first case in

Acrobat and bookmark the first page. If you are not sure what I am talking about go to <http://radio.weblogs.com/0104634/images/2002/07/27/Adobe%20Legal%20Research%201.gif>. There you will see a screenshot of an Acrobat 5.0 PDF document with a red arrow pointing to the "Bookmarks" section. If you are still using version 4.0, don't worry, it is very similar, you will be able to follow along!



"staple your cases together in a virtual way"

INTERMEDIATE (Continued)

Click on the Bookmark and you will see a screen similar to this <<http://radio.weblogs.com/0104634/images/2002/07/27/Adobe%20Legal%20Research%202.gif>>. In the new pane, you will click on the little icon to the left of the red circle around "Bookmark." (In the older version, the icon is located at the bottom of the pane) And this <<http://radio.weblogs.com/0104634/images/2002/07/27/Adobe%20Legal%20Research%203.gif>> is what you get. The box is highlighted so you can change "Untitled" to a shortened form of the case name.

An Acrobat Trick

Now move to the last page of the document (The shortcut for this is Ctrl + Shift + Page Down). Choose "Insert Pages" from the menu labeled "Document." (Ctrl + Shift + I). Open your next case and bookmark the first page. Repeat as often as necessary. When you are done you will see something like this <<http://radio.weblogs.com/0104634/images/2002/07/27/Adobe%20Legal%20Research%204.gif>> with tabs that link to the first page of each case you are working on! ⁸

ADVANCED

IMing Drawbacks

The drawbacks to the use of Instant Messaging in the legal community are mainly in the areas of confidentiality, security and virus protection.

Confidentiality is a problem with almost any means of communication. It is only a matter of degrees and safeguards taken. Unless you and your client are in a sound-proof room, there is a danger of being overheard, either physically or technically.

The best way around this problem is to put your firm and your clients inside a firewall and a proprietary IM service such as Jabber XMPP located on a private server. See <<http://www.jabber.org/admin/>>.

Another solution to security problems is through the use of software such as BlowSearch <http://www.thechrispirilloshow.com/help/20050310_secure_your_instant_messages_with_bsm.phtml> which offers Encrypted IM. It works a lot like encrypted e-mail and is quite economical. They offer a Gold level, 4096-bit encryption service for just 410 a quarter, below that is a Silver level with 256-bit encryption for \$8, and there is even a Bronze level of 56-bit encryption for just \$3! The only problem with this method of security is that both parties must use the service for it to work. ⁹

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ "Young Lawyers Launch Ground-Breaking Online Mentoring Effort." Yahoo! Finance. 28 February 2005. Yahoo! Inc. 3 March 2005. <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/050228/dam022_1.html>.
- ² Calloway, Jim. "Site of the Week: The Ten Minute Mentor. 9 March 2005. TypePad. 9 March 2005. <<http://jimcalloway.typepad.com/lawpracticetips/>>.
- ^{3 & 5} Ambrogi, Robert. "Courtroom Legends Mentor Young Lawyers Via the Web." 8 March 2005. Creative Commons License. 9 March 2005. <<http://www.legaline.com/2005/03/courtroom-legends-mentor-young-lawyers.html>>.
- ⁴ Elefant, Carolyn. "Fabulous Resource from the Texas YLA." MyShingle.com. 28 February 2005. <http://www.myshingle.com/my_shingle/2005/02/fabulous_resour.html>.
- ^{6 & 7} "Ten Minute Mentor." Texas Bar Journal. Vol. 68, Number 3. March 2005. www.texasbar.com. 9 March 2005. <http://www.texasbar.com/Template.cfm?Section=Texas_Bar_Journal1&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=10804>.
- ⁸ Svenson, Ernest. "Acrobat for Online Legal Research: Stapling Your Cases Together - in a Virtual Way." Ernie the Attorney. 30 July 2002. Ernest Svenson. 11 March 2005. <<http://radio.weblogs.com/0104634/outlines/Online%20Legal%20Research.html>>.
- ⁹ Perez, Juan Carlos. "BlowSearch to Offer Encrypted IM: Three Security Levels Offered to Protect Privacy of Instant Messages." PC World. 25 January 2005. IDG News Service. 21 March 2005. <<http://www.pcworld.com/resource/printable/article/0,aid,119432,00.asp>>.



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